

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO NACC COLLECTIVE

XMT AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127312

FOLLOWING REPEAT HAVANA 1263 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ALGIERS,
NOUAKCHOTT, RABAT, USUN NEW YORK 16 MAY 78

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 1263

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PORG, CU

SUBJECT: NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE: OPENING SESSIONS

1. SUMMARY: ONLY CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT APPARENTLY AIRED DURING
OPENING ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION OF NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IS SAHARA
ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS GLEANED FROM CUBAN-RUN PRESS
CONFERENCE, MID-DAY, MAY 15. USINT OFFICER WAS TOLD BY LISANDRO
OTERO, DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS (MINREX) PRESS
AND CULTURAL DEPARTMENT, THAT FURTHER USINT ATTENDANCE AT PRESS
CONFERENCES WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED. WHILE OTERO PROMISED THAT
MINREX WOULD PROVIDE PRESS BRIEFING MATERIAL TO USINT, WE
HAVE OUR DOUBTS.

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3. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

MONDAY, MAY 15, MORNING PLENARY SESSION WAS OPENED BY B.J.
FERNANDO, SIR LANKA, WHO HANDED CHAIRMANSHIP TO RAUL
ROA KOURI, CUBA'S AMBASSADOR TO UN. PLENARY APPROVED
FOLLOWING AGENDA FOR MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY AMBASSADORS/
EXPERTS' SESSION (MINISTERIAL SESSIONS WILL RUN FROM
THURSDAY MORNING TO 1900, SATURDAY, MAY 20): A) WORKING

PROCEDURES OF AMBASSADORS EXPERTS SESSIONS, B) ADOPTION OF AGENDA OF AMBASSADORS/EXPERTS SESSION, C) ORGANIZATION OF CHAIRMANSHIP OF MINISTERIAL MEETING, D) ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF MINISTERIAL MEETING, AND E) EXAMINATION OF DRAFT FINAL COMMUNIQUE AND OTHER DOCUMENTS OF MINISTERIAL MEETING.

4. FOLLOWING DELEGATIONS SPOKE TO THESE QUESTIONS: CHAD, SYRIA, ZAIRE, SRI LANKA, YUGOSLAVIA, INDIA, MOROCCO, MAURITANIA, PERU, NIGER, NIGERIA, ALGERIA, AND BOTSWANA.

5. ALL DELEGATIONS THANKED CUBANS FOR EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION OF MEETING.

6. ROA KOURI (CUBA) SUGGESTED THAT MINISTERIAL MEETING CHAIRMANSHIPS BE ORGANIZED ON BASIS OF GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND TRADITIONAL NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT PRACTICE. THUS, CHAIRMAN OF MINISTERIAL WOULD BE FROM LATIN AMERICA WITH VICE-CHAIRMAN FROM ASIA, AFRICA, AND EUROPE. SRI LANKA, AS CHAIRMAN OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, WOULD SERVE AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER AND RAPPOUTEUR WOULD BE FROM LATIN AMERICA. POLITICAL COMMISSION WOULD HAVE AFRICAN CHAIRMAN AND ASIAN VICE-CHAIRMAN. ECONOMIC COMMISSION WOULD HAVE ASIAN CHAIRMAN AND AFRICAN VICE-CHAIRMAN, CUBAN SUGGESTION WAS APPROVED.

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7. ALSO, CUBA RECOMMENDED THAT THREE INFORMAL WORKING GROUPS BE SET UP DURING AMBASSADOR/EXPERTS MEETING TO DISCUSS: A) POLITICAL ASPECTS OF FINAL COMMUNIQUE, B) ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF FINAL COMMUNIQUE, AND C) PREPARATORY WORK FOR JULY MINISTERIAL MEETING IN BELGRADE. THESE WORKING GROUPS, WHICH BEGAN MEETING MONDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 15, ARE OPEN TO ANY COUNTRY INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING. CUBAN SUGGESTION WAS ADOPTED. END UNCLASSIFIED.

8. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

MOROCCAN EMBASSY, MAY 15, INDICATED THAT MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN DELS SPOKE AGAINST INCLUSION OF SAHARA ISSUE IN DRAFT AGENDA THAT HAD BEEN PREPARED BEFOREHAND BY NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING BUREAU IN NEW YORK. ALGERIANS REPLIED THAT, SINCE MOROCCANS AND MAURITANIANS ARE ONLY "OBSERVERS", THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO SPEAK TO WORK OF NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING BUREAU. MOROCCANS AND MAURITANIANS WILL SEEK TO CONTINUE TO CONFRONT ALGERIANS, IF THEY ARE ALLOWED TO DO SO, WITHIN POLITICAL WORKING GROUP. (COMMENT: WHILE WORKING GROUPS WILL INCLUDE ANY INTERESTED PARTY, THEIR OPERATING PROCEDURES HAVE NOT BEEN SET.)

9. SYRIAN EMBASSY, MAY 15, INDICATED THAT NO CONTROVER-
SIAL MIDDLE EAST SUBJECTS HAVE YET BEEN RAISED. SYRIAN
SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HIS DEL WILL SEEK TO "TURN US POLICY
ON MIDDLE EAST AROUND."

10. LEBANESE EMBASSY, MAY 15, SAID THAT NO MENTION WAS
MADE IN OPENING MEETINGS OF NEW SHABA INCURSION (DESPITE
PRESENCE AND APPARENT INTERVENTION BY ZAIRE DEL) NOR OF
ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA PROBLEM. END CONFIDENTIAL.
LANE

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